



Parks & Recreation

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To: Grindline Skateparks, Inc.

From: Jennifer Fink, Park Planner

Subject: Tibbetts Valley Park Skate Park – Project Narrative for ASDP submittal

Date: May 16, 2016

Project Site

Tibbetts Valley Park (TVP) is a 34 acre park located in the heart of Issaquah and is home to the City's original sports field complex. Tibbetts Valley Park hosts five sports fields, (three (3) softball/little league fields and two (2) baseball fields), a basketball court, four (4) tennis courts, children's play equipment, picnic shelter, six (6) picnic tables, concession stand and a restroom. The park has open walkways and a large parking lot for park users. Tibbetts Creek runs through the southwestern quadrant of the park.

The Tibbetts Valley Park master plan was created in November 1999. The proposed skate park is congruent with the intent of the master plan (encouraging active recreation) and is consistent with the park's CF-R zoning.

The project site is located on the northern edge of Tibbetts Valley Park. To the north is Newport Way, to the east, the park and parking lot entrance road, to the south and west is the park's parking lot. The parking lot is utilized by both Tibbetts Valley Park and Tibbetts Valley Park and Ride users. This joint use is governed by the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between King County and the City of Issaquah. The project site does not impact any critical areas located within the park.

Project Description

The skate park design has an open feel and the park will be highly visible from Newport Way and from within Tibbetts Valley Park. The skate park design includes raised planters which double as seat walls, benches and picnic tables for skaters to rest, socialize and for public enjoyment and observation. The skate park will be 10,500 square feet in size. The park design includes various skating features and space for skaters of varying skill levels to use the park simultaneously. Concrete stamping patterns and textures will provide skate park users with both sensory and visual stimulation.

Fencing will be installed along Newport Way to address passer-by safety and prevent skateboards from leaving the skate park. The skate park designers, Grindline Skateparks, Inc. and the artist

selected for this project, Jake Wagoner, are collaborating on unique and energetic ways to integrate art into the fence treatment, the stairs and raised planters.

Parking

In 1997 the City of Issaquah and King County entered into an interlocal agreement for the construction of a park and ride facility (approximately 162 spaces) at the south east corner of SR-900 and NE Newport Way. The interlocal agreement commits to joint use of the Tibbetts Valley Park and Ride parking lot (by both the City of Issaquah and King County Metro Park and Ride) for a period of thirty years.

The Tibbetts Valley Park and Ride parking lot is located south-southwest of the skate park project site. This parking lot operates on a first come first serve basis. The Parks and Recreation Department is in communication with the King County Metro, Park & Ride program Manager, Steve Cahan regarding the skate park project and timelines.

In addition to the Tibbetts Valley Park and Ride parking lot, there is another parking lot (approximately 122 spaces) which serves Tibbetts Valley Park; located south of Newport Way and accessed from 12th Avenue.

Skate park users also have access to the Issaquah Park and Ride transit station; located just north of the skate park site on Newport Way and SR-900.

Project History and Community Involvement

Development of a new skate park has been a priority and a goal of the Issaquah City Council for a number of years. This narrative will speak to the skate park history, the public process (including site location and design), Council action, funding, and partnerships.

In June 2012, EMC Research conducted a phone survey of Issaquah residents to determine their interest in parks and recreation improvements in preparation for the 2013 Park Bond. Following the survey, a preliminary list of Park Bond items which included a new skate park was created. The Mayor appointed a Park Bond Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to host a public input meeting to review the EMC phone survey results, public input received through social media, the preliminary list of Park Bond items, and to provide a recommended list of items for the 2013 Park Bond to the Park Board. The recommendations to the Park Board did not include a new skate park. On June 24, 2013 the Park Board reviewed the CAC's recommendations, approved them, and sent their recommendation to the Mayor.

In September 2013, in response to public input, the City of Issaquah's Administration and City Council directed the Parks and Recreation Department to begin planning for a new skate park in Issaquah. In November 2013, the \$10 million dollar Park Bond passed with 77% voter approval. As part of the City's 2014 budget, Council approved \$350,000 (AB 6676) towards the skate park project.

In January 2014, a skate park Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was formed to work with the Parks and Recreation Department to determine the location for a new skate park. From January through

May 2014, Parks and Recreation staff held three CAC and two public input meetings discussing possible locations. The community selected and Council approved (AB 6804) Tibbetts Valley Park as the location for a new skate park.

Through an RFQ process, Grindline Skateparks, Inc. was selected as the consultant to work with the Parks and Recreation Department, the CAC, and the community to design the new skate park. From June through July 2014, Parks and Recreation staff held four CAC and three public input meetings resulting in the design of the new skate park.

The design is for a 10,500 square foot skate park which maximizes the site use, provides needed space for skaters of varying skill levels, is a regional draw, and serves as a public gathering space. The estimated design/build expense for the 10,500 square foot skate park exceeded the allocated \$350,000 appropriated. The Mayor requested additional funding for the skate park in the 2015 proposed budget. During the budget review process, the funding remained at \$350,000 and staff was directed to research opportunities for grants and donations to fund the skate park.

In April 2015, Council approved the Parks and Recreation Department request to pursue a 2015 King County Youth Sports Facilities Grant (KCYSF grant) with a maximum grant request of \$75,000. This grant was awarded in full. A condition of the grant required a community partner match of \$9,375.00. Influence the Choice (formerly the Drug Free Community Coalition (DFCC)) stepped forward as the City's community partner. The skating community, along with Influence the Choice organized a Skating Event on September 19, 2015 to raise funds and awareness for the project. In addition to this fundraising effort, the City of Issaquah created a GoFundMe website raising a total of \$20,810.00 in support of the skate park.

In the 2016 budget, the City Council allocated a total of \$525,000 for the 10,500 square foot skate park (including grant funds, community match, and donations). In addition, the Issaquah Arts Commission donated \$40,000 for the integration of community art (with public involvement) in the skate park project. Construction is anticipated in 2016.